

DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

5 8 6 4 '99 SEP 27 110 :09

Re: Docket numbers:

98N-1230

96P-0418

97P-0197

To Whom It May Concern:

Each year the United States Egg industry force molts (intentionally **starves** for up to 14 days) millions of **hens** to manipulate egg production.

Forced molting is so stressful it destroys the hens' immune system, predisposing the **birds** and their eggs to salmonella infection. **The** US Department of Agriculture's Food Safety & Inspection **Service (FSIS)** stated: "**FSIS** recognizes that public health concerns **are raised** by highly **stressful** forced molting practices. For example, extended **starvation** and water **deprivation** practices lead to increased shedding of Salmonella **enteritidis** (Se) by laying hens subjected to these practices."

The FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices that injure human health. Therefore, the FDA should ban the practice of forced molting because it has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the **starving** hens' immune system. Forced molting of laying hens is the primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs. The FDA was petitioned in **April 1998** to ban **forced** molting. This petition should be granted without further delay. Putting Bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulating refrigeration temperatures is not enough to ensure human safety.

Sincerely,



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97P-0197

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION  
**CROSS REFERENCE SHEET**

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C719

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C720  
96P-0418/C719